GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH ABSTRACT

PUBLIC SERVICES – Sri M. Venkateswara Rao, former Revenue Divisional Officer, Visakhpatnam and presently DRO, Visakhapatnam - Departmental proceedings under rule 20 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1991 – Articles of charges framed – Explanation considered-Further action dropped-Orders-Issued.

REVENUE(VIGILANCE-III)DEPARTMENT

G.O.Rt.No. 298

Dated: 28-02-2014

Read the following:-

- 1. From the District Collector, Visakhapatnam, Lr. M.CNo.2/2005/C2, Dt: 16.6.2007.
- 2. Memo No. 32853/Vig.III (1)/2007-1, Dated: 28-7-2009.
- 3. From the CCLA, Hyd No.VSI(1)/1613/2009, dt.17-5-2012.
- 4. G.O.Rt.No.1065, Rev(Vig.III)Dept., dt.18-7-2012.
- 5. From Sri M. Venkateswara Rao, formerly RDO, Visakhapatnam and presently DRO, Visakhapatnam WSD dt.23-3-2013.

ORDER:

Based on the report of the Dist Collector, Visakhapatnam received vide reference 1st read above, disciplinary action was initiated against Sri M. Venkateswara Rao, formerly RDO, Visakhapatnam dist on the allegation that he issued notices to the Editor, Andhrajyothy News Paper under Sec 144 Cr.P.C to curtail the freedom of Press. Accordingly, charges were framed on the said delinquent calling for his explanation vide reference 4th read above.

The charged officer, Sri M. Venkateswarara Rao, formerly RDO, Visakhapatnam dist has submitted explanation vide reference 5th read above. He has submitted that during the time while he worked as Revenue Divisional Officer, Visakhapatnam, a series of Adverse News items were published regularly pertains to Visakhapatnam land matters and other related issues in Andhra Jyothi Telugu Daily News paper alleging baseless allegations against the Senior Officers and other public servants like Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh, District Collector and other IAS and IPS officers and other Senior officers with careless and biased attitude which have gone to the extent of not only maligning the character and image of those officers in public but also shatter the faith of the public likely to be bestowed upon those officers. He has stated that in the light of the above aspects, he inclined to come to a conclusion that unless and otherwise publication of this sort of mudslinging news items against the senior officers and Government servants exclusively in the Andhra Jyothi Daily news paper is put at rest, there is every likely hood of disturbance to public tranquility and annoyance to the persons lawfully employed and that there is urgent and imminent need to prevent such things by invoking the provision of Section 144 Cr. P.C. He has stated that, accordingly, on receipt of information from his higher authorities, he has issued notice and interim order u/s 144 Cr.P.C directing the Editor, Andhra Jyothi Telugu Daily to refrain from publishing news items of baseless and malafide allegations against the public servants without taking their opinion and without revealing the source of such information and also without having evidence to the news. He also submitted that he being a trueful Citizen of India, have very much respect to the Constitutional Bodies as well as to the "Fourth Estate" i.e. Press and Media, since, it creates a lot of awareness among the public and brings the facts to the notice of the common man. Finally he has requested to drop further action against him.

- 3. After careful examination of the matter, the Government have decided to drop further action against the charged officer. Accordingly further action against Sri M. M. Venkateswarara Rao, formerly RDO, Visakhapatnam and presently DRO, Visakhapatnam is hereby dropped.
- 4. The Chief Commissioner of Land Administration, Hyderabad is therefore requested to take further necessary action in the matter.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

B.R. MEENA PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To,
Sri M.Venkateswara Rao,
formerly RDO, Visakhapatnam and now DRO, Visakhapatnam
(Through the CCLA, Hyd).
Copy to:
The Chief Commissioner of Land Administration, Hyderabad
The Dist Collector, Visakhapatnam,
The Rev(Ser.I)Dept
SC/SF.

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER